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EXAMINER

KWON, BRIAN YONG S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1614

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-31, drawn to a process of using.
- II. Claims 32-33, drawn to a pharmaceutical product.

As discussed above, inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP 5§ 806.05(h). In the instant case the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product (e.g., US 6080747, US 6080748, US 6177433, etc...).

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully

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examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined.

See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

2. If Applicant elects the Group I Invention, it is subject to further restriction as followings.

I(a). Claims 1-8, 10-12, 29-31, drawn to a method of inhibiting function and/or proliferation of a cell expressing Janus tyrosine kinase 3 comprising administering a compound of the formula (I), classified in class 514, subclass 513.

I(b). Claim 29, drawn to a method of inhibiting function and/or proliferation of a cell expressing Janus tyrosine kinase 3 comprising administering a compound of the formula (II), classified in class 514, subclass 690.

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- I(c). Claim 30, drawn to a method of inhibiting function and/or proliferation of a cell expressing Janus tyrosine kinase 3 comprising administering a compound of the formula (III), classified in class, subclass 660, 691.
- I(d). Claims 9, 25-28, drawn to a method of identifying substances that are useful as therapeutic immunosuppressants in vitro or in vivo, classified in class 435, subclass 7.21, 7.24.
- I(e). Claims 13-24, drawn to a method of treating an undesired immune response comprising administering a compound of the formula (I), classified in class 514, subclass 513.

As discussed above, inventions I(a)-(d) are independent or distinct because each of the inventions above is acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification. Especially, the each of the inventions I(a)-(c) can be practiced with the different compounds represented by formula (I), (II) or (III)

In addition, invention I(e) is distinct or independent from I(a). Inventions are distinct or unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions have different modes of operation. For instance, the invention I(e) can be practiced with another materially different mode of operation (i.e., modulation of MAP kinase, PTPase, LTB₄, PGE₂, etc...).

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Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. If applicant elects I(e) invention, Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, for example (i) organ transplant rejection, (ii) autoimmune disease, (iii) airway hypersensitivity, (iv) allergy, and (v) leukemia or lymphoma, under the instant claims of the elected Group. Moreover, whatever specific species is ultimately elected, applicants are required to list all claims readable thereon.

With the election of a specific exemplified disease, a generic concept will be identified by the examiner as the inventive group for examination.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

4. A telephone call was made to David A. Cherry on February 08, 2006 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the

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currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Kwon whose telephone number is (703) 308-5377. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low, can be reached on (571) 272-0951. The fax number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Brian Kwon
Patent Examiner
AU 1614

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Kwon', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.